

Case 2742

***Vatellus* Aubé, 1837 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the name *Vatellus* Aubé, 1837 for a genus of water diving beetle (DYTISCIDAE). It is threatened by *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835, an unused senior objective synonym of the Aubé name.

1. Laporte (1835, p. 106) proposed the generic name *Leucorea* for the single species *Hydroporus tarsatus* Laporte, 1835, which is therefore the type species by monotypy. After discussing the differences between this and all the other species of *Hydroporus*, Laporte wrote: 'tous ces caractères sont peut-être suffisants pour en former un genre particulier, que nous proposerons d'appeler *Leucorea*.'

2. Aubé (1837, p. 221, pl. 26, fig. 2) rejected the name *Leucorea* Laporte and instead proposed the replacement generic name *Vatellus* for the single species *Hydroporus tarsatus* Laporte, 1835: 'Je n'ai pas cru devoir adopter pour ce nouveau genre le nom de *Leucorea* que M. de Laporte a proposé, dans le cas où l'on voudrait par la suite le séparer des *Hydroporus*; et cela parce que je ne puis comprendre qu'on impose aux entomologistes à venir, un nom pour une division générique qu'on ne s'est pas cru fondé à créer soi-même'.

3. Chenu (1851, p. 213) noted that, although Laporte (1835) had described the beetle under the name *Leucorea*, the later name *Vatellus* (1837) should be used as the valid name because of its more widespread use (see, for example, Aubé 1838, pp. 448–449 and Buquet, 1840).

4. Gemminger & Harold (1868, p. 428) cited *Leucorea* Laporte as a synonym of *Vatellus* Aubé, and Sharp (1882, p. 285) accepted the name *Vatellus* without mention of *Leucorea*. Sharp (pp. 258, 282) also established VATELLINI as a tribe of the subfamily HYDROPORINAE Erichson, 1837.

5. *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835 has never been used as a valid generic name since originally proposed. As well as those works already cited, *Vatellus* Aubé has been used by the following: Régimbart, 1878 (p. 454); Branden, 1885 (p. 19); Zimmermann, 1920 (p.30); Blackwelder, 1944 (pp. 74–75); Guignot, 1946 (p. 113); Spangler, 1966 (p. 16); Biström, 1979; and Franciscolo, 1979 (p. 237).

6. As suggested by Nilsson et al. (1989, p. 314), it is very desirable for stability of nomenclature to retain the familiar name *Vatellus* and to suppress the unused senior objective synonym *Leucorea*.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Vatellus* Aubé, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Hydroporus tarsatus* Laporte, 1835;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *tarsatus* Laporte, 1835, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus tarsatus* (specific name of the type species of *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835, as suppressed in (1) above.

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